



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 January 2005

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Forty-eighth session

Vienna, 7-14 March 2005

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**Policy directives to the drug programme of the
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Fourteenth session

Vienna, 23-27 May 2005

Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs
and Crime**

Development, security and justice for all

Report of the Executive Director***

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1-3	3
II. Peace and security	4-22	4
A. Legal framework	4-5	4
B. International drug control	6-10	5
C. Action against transnational organized crime	11-12	6
D. Treaty implementation	13-16	6
1. Legal assistance	13-14	6
2. Law enforcement	15-16	7
E. Countering trafficking in humans	17	7
F. Countering terrorism through treaty implementation	18-19	8
G. Countering money-laundering	20-22	8

* E/CN.7/2005/1.

** E/CN.15/2005/1.

*** The present document takes into consideration recent developments and consultations.



III.	Poverty eradication	23-39	9
A.	Alternative livelihoods and protecting the environment	23-27	9
B.	Promoting public health and reducing demand for illicit drugs	28-29	10
C.	Countering HIV/AIDS	30-33	11
D.	Africa's special needs	34-39	11
IV.	The rule of law and good governance	40-45	13
A.	Criminal justice reform	40-41	13
B.	Action against corruption	42-45	13
V.	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	46-47	14

I. Introduction

1. Crime, drugs, corruption and terrorism have dire consequences for individuals and undermine society's development, security and justice on a global scale. Technology, international trade and the unprecedented mobility around the world result in increasingly porous borders, which are being exploited by criminal organizations, offering them new opportunities to extend their reach into every aspect of people's lives. Criminal bosses and drug lords oversee complex production and distribution networks; they manage interlinking criminal organizations, shifting resources around the world much the same as their legitimate counterparts do. When organized crime is unable to move its resources through legitimate financial systems, it moves its criminal proceeds illegally by exploiting weaknesses in the trade control system. International peace, development and justice cannot prevail if the trade and the economy of individual nations are contaminated by illicit activities, if the wealth of nations is siphoned off via fraud and corruption, if bribery is allowed to undermine the law and if terrorists are permitted to hijack national policies. Furthermore, the activities of criminal organizations at the international level are tending to become more closely linked, leading to a consolidation of organized crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, small arms trafficking, money-laundering and corruption. In order to meet the global expansion of this phenomenon, an improvement in national, regional and international efforts and mechanisms for cooperation is urgently needed.

2. In following up the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held in September 2000, the Secretary-General convened a high-level panel of eminent persons to examine the major threats and challenges facing the world in the broad field of peace and security, including economic and social issues insofar as they relate to peace and security, and to make recommendations for the elements of a collective response. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided an overview of its work, which led to a productive discussion about the ways drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism undermine the global agenda for peace and security. The High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, identified in its report (A/59/565 and Corr.1, part two) six clusters of threats to international security:

- Economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation
- Inter-State conflict
- Internal conflict, including civil war, genocide and other large-scale atrocities
- Nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons
- Terrorism
- Transnational organized crime

3. UNODC, under the guidance of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, addresses several of these grave global threats within the framework of the rule of law and through its alternative development strategies; measures to reduce illicit demand for drugs;

HIV/AIDS prevention in the context of drug abuse; and measures against the most serious forms of trafficking, including in drugs, human beings and weapons. UNODC also supports and promotes the implementation of the three international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) and the 12 international instruments against terrorism. UNODC's integrated portfolio of global programmes and regional and country projects includes legislative and capacity-building assistance in addressing problems involving drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism in countries of Africa, the Americas, East Asia, West and Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Protection of the environment is a high priority, as illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production result in environmental degradation, and the safe disposal of seized chemical substances is essential. New initiatives have been launched with support from the donor community—and they range from a regional intelligence coordination centre for Central Asia to a container programme in major seaports in Africa, Asia and Latin America, aimed at disrupting the flow of illicit commodities. Furthermore, in order to strengthen programmatic responses, UNODC continues to assist Member States and the international community to improve data collection and analysis.

II. Peace and security

A. Legal framework

4. Drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism each represent an individual threat. When these activities intersect, or when one criminal behaviour is used to support another, the threat becomes even more alarming. To make the necessary collective leap from analysis to action is an urgent task, and a number of conventions and international instruments provide a blueprint for collective action. These conventions and instruments also support States in finding the balance between suppression and prevention:

(a) Three conventions provide the framework for international drug control and have been ratified by almost all Member States: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961;¹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971;² and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;³

(b) The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force on 29 September 2003; it has three Protocols: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II), which entered into force on 25 December 2003; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (Assembly resolution 55/25, annex III), which entered into force on 28 January 2004; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Assembly resolution 55/255, annex), which has yet to enter into force;

(c) The United Nations Convention against Corruption will enter into force when there are 30 States parties to it;

(d) Adherence to the 12 universal instruments against terrorism is growing.

5. The international community has an obligation to support countries in the process of reconstructing their civil societies in order to make them less vulnerable to criminal exploitation or terrorist operations. Greater economic growth, wider health care, improvements in education and a culture that respects and values individuals for their differences, as well as for their strengths, are the best protection against criminality. UNODC is helping interested States in accelerating the ratification and implementation of the conventions and instruments against organized crime, corruption and terrorism.

B. International drug control

6. Drug trafficking preys on millions of people at both ends of the drug chain—farmers on the supply side and addicts on the demand side—using the misery of millions to pay for the lavish lifestyles of criminal intermediaries. The total number of drug abusers in the world is now estimated to be 185 million people, about 3 per cent of the world population or 4.7 per cent of the population aged 15-64 years. Estimates show that the most widely abused substance is cannabis (close to 150 million people), followed by amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) (including about 30 million for amphetamines). Just over 13 million people use cocaine, and 15 million use opiates, including some 9 million who take heroin.⁴

7. UNODC data indicate that the global supply of opium and heroin has remained stable, with a continued decline in illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production in South-East Asia.⁵ Andean countries have recorded a decline in coca bush cultivation for the fourth straight year. Afghanistan is still a source of major concern, although its counter-narcotics strategy is valid: it may take at least 10 years to eliminate the problem. UNODC has a significant portfolio of projects in Afghanistan and is preparing new initiatives to improve investigative capacities, to support the prosecution and imprisonment of drug-related criminals and to launch a campaign to increase public awareness of the fact that opium is a national security threat.

8. The market for ATS, synthetic drugs, amphetamines and Ecstasy appears to be stabilizing. Seizures of such drugs have also stabilized, thus suggesting that their illicit manufacture is not rising. This may mean that people from all demographic groups are no longer buying these substances in an increasing number. If this trend is confirmed over time, it will represent a significant breakthrough in drug control. In contrast, cannabis accounts for much of the drug abuse in Africa and for two thirds of the demand for treatment.

9. Addiction to heroin remains the most serious problem in many countries of the world. In Asia, for instance, opiate addiction accounts for 67 per cent of the demand for drug abuse treatment. This is a serious problem in itself, but it is especially serious because of the spreading of HIV through drug injection. Drugs are injected by 13 million people around the world, mostly in Central and Eastern Europe and in South and South-East Asia. Efforts need to be strengthened to combat illicit production of and trafficking in opiates. Good progress has been made with the “Paris Pact” initiative,⁶ which focuses on improved border control to combat heroin

trafficking in Central and Western Asia and in the Russian Federation and the Balkans.

10. In June 2004, UNODC published the first two-volume *World Drug Report 2004*,⁷ which merges the former *Global Illicit Drug Trends* with the *World Drug Report* and will be published annually. In this context, UNODC is launching two new research initiatives: the establishment of standardized indicators on the evolution of the global drug problem; and a methodology for estimating the proceeds of the global illicit drug markets.⁸

C. Action against transnational organized crime

11. UNODC has conducted specific technical assistance activities to promote the ratification and implementation of the Transnational Organized Crime Convention. UNODC is supporting States in the adoption of basic national legislation in accordance with the Convention and its Protocols and is helping to address their needs concerning criminalization and difficulties encountered in the implementation of those instruments.⁹ It also promotes international cooperation and technical assistance to overcome difficulties in the implementation. Training seminars have covered best practices in the fight against organized crime and corruption, including in the areas of investigation, international cooperation, collaboration with and protection of witnesses, prevention of organized crime and the development of appropriate legal frameworks.¹⁰ More sustained initiatives have been provided through, inter alia, the appointment of mentors in selected countries.

12. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held its first session in Vienna from 28 June to 8 July 2004 with the participation of 57 States parties, 42 signatories and 4 non-signatories to the Convention.

D. Treaty implementation

1. Legal assistance

13. Without adequate legal frameworks and the know-how to implement the conventions effectively, international drug control and crime prevention efforts may be seriously undermined. Many States need to update not only their laws, practices and procedures, but also the way their justice systems coordinate and share cross-border casework.¹¹ Major changes to old legal frameworks may be necessary in order to implement many common provisions of regional and international instruments on drugs, crime and terrorism. Recent organizational reform of the UNODC drug and crime programmes has enhanced the synergy of its treaty implementation programmes to improve the implementation of common instrument requirements, such as extradition and mutual legal assistance, and to tackle corruption, which undermines effective regulatory, prosecution and judicial action in some countries. UNODC legal advisers have also worked closely with national and international partners to help jurisdictions establish and run successful drug treatment courts.¹²

14. Programme delivery is decentralized through the presence of UNODC in the field and through regional and country initiatives to help ensure that assisted countries receive high-quality assistance appropriate to their differing needs.¹³ Human and financial resources are leveraged through work and cost-sharing arrangements with internal and external partners to ensure value per project dollar spent.

2. Law enforcement

15. In the area of law enforcement, UNODC has focused its efforts on training law enforcement officials, investigators and prosecutors,¹⁴ both in the use of specialized investigative techniques, such as gathering covert intelligence or off-site evidence, and in the use of advanced intelligence software.¹⁵ UNODC has also collected and promoted best practices in policing and facilitating cross-border law enforcement cooperation. In the specific area of capacity-building, more sustained interventions were provided through the appointment of mentors in selected countries.

16. The Laboratory and Scientific Support Programme of UNODC contributes to enhancing national capacity for drug-testing and the quality of scientific support provided to national criminal justice systems and health services.¹⁶ In 2004, UNODC delivered, through national, regional and global projects, technical assistance to strengthen the performance of national laboratories and related institutions in Africa, Asia, the Caucasus and Latin America, as well as in the Russian Federation. In order to support law enforcement agencies with measures to counter illicit drug production, manufacture and trafficking, UNODC continued to produce and distribute field test kits for the rapid detection of controlled drugs and precursors. In addition, new tests have been developed and utilized for the identification of non-scheduled chemicals used in clandestine heroin processing. During 2004, a new global initiative began on improving forensic capabilities for the characterization/impurity profiling of ATS and their precursors and promoting the utilization of laboratory data as a primary information source. Drug-testing is a tool that is being used more extensively in many countries, especially in the workplace, for example in the transportation industry, and for people in high-risk occupations.

E. Countering trafficking in humans

17. Trafficking in persons continues to be an issue of major concern worldwide. Each year, about 1 million people, in particular women and children, are brutally exploited by criminal gangs who make a living from sweatshops, prostitution and child pornography, from farmers or domestics working for slave-wages and from migrants in search of a better life. According to UNODC data on trends in trafficking in humans, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa and member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States are the main regions where victims of such trafficking are recruited, and developed countries find themselves at the end of the trafficking route. Central and Eastern Europe is the main transit region. Asia figures equally as a region of origin and of destination of such trafficking. In addition, there is a considerable amount of domestic (non-transnational) trafficking in humans. Through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings, UNODC is carrying out or preparing technical assistance in countries in Africa,

Asia, Europe and Latin America.¹⁷ UNODC is continuing to track trends and patterns in global trafficking in human beings, including information on victims, offenders and the responses of criminal justice systems.

F. Countering terrorism through treaty implementation

18. Terrorism is an international phenomenon that knows no bounds; it can target any nationality, respects no religion and recognizes no exceptions. While terrorists once targeted mainly state representatives, today they strike out at ordinary citizens, civilians and even United Nations staff, fired by a complex ideological base that challenges comprehension. UNODC is focusing on the nexus between terrorism and other forms of crime and, to that end, it has provided training to more than 500 lawmakers and criminal justice officials from over 80 countries on the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). UNODC, through its Global Programme against Terrorism, aims to strengthen the international and national legal regime against terrorism by delivering to States concrete assistance in becoming parties to the universal instruments against terrorism and, increasingly, in implementing the provisions of those instruments. Assistance is also provided to requesting countries in preparing reports to the Security Council, pursuant to Council resolution 1373 (2001).

19. UNODC provides support to interested countries in the analysis of national legislation related to counter-terrorism, working with relevant national authorities to identify needs and assisting in drafting national laws with a view to implementing counter-terrorism instruments.¹⁸ UNODC also recommends further implementation steps and trains criminal justice officials in the implementation of new laws and international judicial cooperation. Direct assistance has been provided to 51 countries and an additional 45 countries have been assisted indirectly through subregional and regional activities. UNODC has enjoyed constructive cooperation with its counterparts in the United Nations system engaged in countering the threat of terrorism, notably the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council,¹⁹ the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat. UNODC's work is undertaken in close cooperation with numerous international and regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Monetary Fund, the African Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union and the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight.

G. Countering money-laundering

20. There is growing awareness in the international community that drug trafficking funds terrorism. There is a vicious circle involving drug trafficking, other forms of illicit trafficking such as trafficking in persons, migrants and arms, money-laundering and transnational organized crime. Priority must be given to combating each phenomenon both individually and in combination with the others.

21. UNODC provided technical assistance to more than 35 countries and jurisdictions throughout the world in 2004, including support through mentors.²⁰

Highlights of the work of its Global Programme against Money-Laundering in 2004 have included the expansion and strengthening of partnerships with other international organizations, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of OAS, OSCE, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat and the World Bank, in the delivery of technical assistance and coordination of activities.

22. UNODC has coordinated the piloting and delivery of computer-based training to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. New versions of the programs used were produced in French, Russian and Spanish. In addition, UNODC entered into partnerships with CICAD, ADB and the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat to facilitate delivery of the training on a regional basis.

III. Poverty eradication

A. Alternative livelihoods and protecting the environment

23. UNODC has focused its work in the area of sustainable livelihoods on providing support to the design and implementation of quality alternative development programmes and projects in all key regions producing illicit drugs. In the Andean countries, UNODC has supported generating agro-industries with proven markets, producing cash and food crops, agroforestry productive systems and microenterprises. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, building on previous achievements in reducing opium poppy cultivation, the focus has been on food security, health and improved market access. In Afghanistan, UNODC assists with the establishment of institutional capacities on alternative development at the national and regional levels. UNODC is also assisting Morocco in revising its development plan for the northern region with a view to addressing the problem of cannabis cultivation. UNODC support of alternative development for drug supply reduction is provided within a framework of gender-sensitive planning, environmental protection and sustainability.

24. UNODC has also supported the Governments of seven countries in carrying out illicit crop monitoring surveys in 2004.²¹ The UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme assists the international community and Governments concerned in monitoring the extent and evolution of the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops. The results compiled by UNODC to determine global estimates on an annual basis enable the international community to guide and assess the progress of the measures implemented to reach the objective of eliminating or reducing significantly illicit crop cultivation by the year 2008. Also, the results of the surveys have assisted the Governments concerned in the planning and delivery of alternative development and poverty alleviation interventions.

25. Member States, in cooperation with UNODC, facilitated a comprehensive thematic evaluation for determining best practices in alternative development.²² In the context of thematic evaluations on alternative development, regional desk studies for Latin America and South-East Asia have been produced, as well as field research reports covering selected alternative development target areas in Peru and

Thailand. The experiences and best practices were consolidated in a final synthesis report, which serves as a guide for future work in alternative development. UNODC has also launched studies on the global cannabis market and the environmental effects of illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit drug production.

26. In 2004, UNODC strengthened inter-agency collaboration in alternative development. UNODC and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have developed a joint project in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and identified various other countries where UNODC/UNIDO partnership in alternative development would be beneficial. UNODC implemented alternative development projects jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization, Norwegian Church Aid and the Aga Khan Development Network (the latter in Badakhshan, Afghanistan). Also in 2004, UNODC increased coordination and exchange of information with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the World Bank and FAO. UNODC entered into an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment of Italy and developed pilot projects that included alternative development activities promoting reforestation, soil improvement and erosion prevention.

27. In 2004, in Doi Tung, Thailand, UNODC initiated negotiations with a view to establishing a global partnership on alternative development. The global partnership will bring together major development and drug control partners to advocate and adopt alternative development as a key element of poverty alleviation, sustainable development and drug control. UNODC also initiated work in the area of promoting sustainable livelihoods to prevent crime in urban contexts, pursuant to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol of the Organized Crime Convention.

B. Promoting public health and reducing demand for illicit drugs

28. There is a growing awareness of the importance of drug-related issues to public health and the related need for more effective data collection, treatment and rehabilitation. UNODC is implementing projects for the expansion and improvement of drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation services in collaboration with Governments in all regions. These initiatives are also linked to the prevention of HIV/AIDS, in the context of drug abuse prevention.

29. The Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse has contributed to the further improvement of drug abuse information systems in a number of countries.²³ To date, UNODC has provided technical assistance under the Global Assessment Programme to 51 countries in the form of training, situation analysis and network establishment. In 49 countries, surveys were carried out on population, schools, problem drug users, treatment, demand and/or HIV/AIDS. In 23 countries, in-depth studies were carried out to assist Governments in designing policies and programmes. The Global Youth Network against Drug Abuse project now links approximately 300 youth groups and community-based organizations working on the prevention of substance abuse among young people.²⁴

C. Countering HIV/AIDS

30. In 2004, of the 39.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS, 17.6 million (48 per cent) were women and 2.2 million were children under the age of 15. HIV/AIDS is more than a health issue—it is also an issue of human rights and gender-based discrimination. HIV/AIDS prevention and care are crucial to the work of UNODC in the context of drug abuse prevention. UNODC has many field projects, including drug demand reduction activities that include gender-sensitive elements to ensure that services and information are available to women and girls. UNODC is also working to address trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, because victims of such trafficking are among the groups most vulnerable to HIV infection and drug abuse.

31. UNODC is raising awareness about the consequences of drug abuse and the link between drug use and the spread of HIV/AIDS. To this end, the new global campaign and its companion slogan, “Think before you start, before you shoot, before you share”, were launched to encourage young men and women to consider the implications of using drugs.

32. Since 1 July 2004, UNODC has chaired the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations. In addition to pursuing current activities of the Committee, UNODC is working closely with partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in addressing the key issues related to the transmission of HIV/AIDS among intravenous drug users, among persons in prison or prison-like settings and among the victims of trafficking in persons.

33. The link between preventing drug abuse and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS is a priority of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission will address the theme of “Preventing HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in the context of drug abuse prevention”, as well as “Community capacity-building”.

D. Africa’s special needs

34. Sustainable development in Africa is hampered by drug trafficking and abuse, corruption, terrorism, organized crime and HIV/AIDS. UNODC has made the African region a priority and, with the resources available, has pursued synergies with cooperating partners in programme delivery. UNODC provides technical and advisory services to the African Union within the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). UNODC also collaborates with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and is running three subregional drug demand reduction expert networks in Eastern, Northern and Western Africa. In August 2004, UNODC launched a new Africa-wide project on the prevention of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. Taking into account the lack of data and empirical information on the drug and crime situation in Africa, UNODC will pay special attention to this problem.²⁵

35. UNODC is providing technical assistance in border and small arms control, security reform and support in countering transnational organized crime. UNODC

expanded cooperation with the ECOWAS secretariat that will result in new initiatives to counter corruption, terrorism, money-laundering, trafficking in human beings and drug control. In Nigeria, the national law enforcement training academy is being transformed into a multidisciplinary regional training institution. In addition, UNODC is strengthening the capacity of treatment and rehabilitation centres. A community-based rehabilitation strategy, focusing on youth and women, is addressing the twin problems of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS and providing support for prevention activities in the country's prisons.

36. In the area of law enforcement, UNODC has trained judges, magistrates, prosecutors and investigators from countries in Eastern and Southern Africa on drug cases. It has also supported improvements in the law enforcement capacity at points of entry in several countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, aimed at reducing the flow of drugs and other contraband, including precious metals, endangered species and stolen vehicles, trafficked by organized crime syndicates.²⁶ An assessment of corruption and anti-corruption measures in correctional services was carried out in Southern Africa together with SADC, which adopted an anti-corruption programme, while a number of countries have promulgated anti-corruption legislation.²⁷

37. In Eastern Africa, a combination of training and the award of micro-grants to government entities and non-governmental organizations for conducting specific demand reduction activities has yielded significant results in terms of raising awareness and enhancing skills of government and non-governmental organization personnel in prevention and treatment activities. UNODC regional demand reduction activities focused on capacity-building, with emphasis on the prevention of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable groups, including injecting drug users.

38. UNODC is involved directly in work against trafficking in persons in the region.²⁸ In Southern Africa, centres run by UNODC to counsel and assist victims of violence against women and children were turned over to the South African authorities as part of a sustainable development initiative. A task team against trafficking in human beings was established in South Africa and work is progressing on anti-trafficking legislation. As part of a drug prevention, rehabilitation and treatment programme, a nationwide anti-drug campaign was launched that included issuing guidelines on minimum standards for treatment facilities, developing plans for a national drug education programme in schools and providing community-based services to drug abusers and at-risk youth in disadvantaged areas. In the area of urban crime prevention, an urban security initiative promoting community policing and neighbourhood justice reforms is being implemented in Senegal.

39. Preparations are under way for a Round Table for Africa, to be held in Addis Ababa in May 2005, which will involve policy and decision makers on drug- and crime-related issues from the Governments of all African countries, regional organizations and bilateral and multilateral organizations. The special focus on Africa stems from initiatives such as the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and the priorities set out by the African Union and NEPAD, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/32 of 21 July 2004, entitled "Implementation of technical assistance projects in Africa by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime". The Round Table will debate the broad issue of drugs and crime as impediments to development in Africa, assess the progress to date, agree on priorities for a plan of action to target specific obstacles to development in Africa, and promote partnerships and mobilize resources. In order to

ensure a common understanding of the issues to be addressed at the Round Table, UNODC is preparing a report on drugs and crime as impediments to development in Africa. The report, together with other documentation, will provide a basis for sharing ideas and experiences in bilateral and multilateral development support, for building synergies and for forging new partnerships for development aid.

IV. The rule of law and good governance

A. Criminal justice reform

40. Where law enforcement, the administration of justice and financial systems are weak, organized crime continues to spread. The work of UNODC has contributed directly to the fulfilment of prerequisites for prosperity and social justice called for in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular, strengthening the rule of law and promoting democracy and good governance. UNODC has provided advice to several Governments to enhance their capacity to administer criminal law and to reduce crime by promoting the humane treatment of prisoners, juvenile justice reform, the improvement of prison conditions, victim support²⁹ and urban security. UNODC provided advice on legislation, institution-building and the collection of data. UNODC is actively involved in the United Nations Coordination Panel on Technical Advice and Assistance in Juvenile Justice.³⁰

41. In the area of post-conflict reconstruction, UNODC participates in the rule of law focal points of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and assists in assessing post-conflict situations and in identifying personnel for peacekeeping missions. A comprehensive programme for criminal justice reform and reconstruction has been formulated for Afghanistan and is currently being implemented. Within the overall programme, special attention is paid to the role of girls and women within and outside the criminal justice system. The programme is composed of three main components: criminal law reform and criminal justice capacity-building; juvenile justice; and reform of the penitentiary system.

B. Action against corruption

42. Corruption is a particularly corrosive form of crime, destroying national economies and public wealth, undermining development and breaking the trust between citizens and their representatives. This attack on national revenues is an attack on the poorest communities, making it impossible for the needy members of society to obtain basic needs, such as water, sanitation, food, health and education. Moreover, officials who accept bribes may allow terrorists to operate or let traffickers smuggle goods and people.

43. The High-level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Merida, Mexico, from 9 to 11 December 2003. The Convention is universal in scope, offering States the means to follow the money trail, to seize and freeze illicit funds and to return stolen or embezzled funds to their rightful owners, even if the money has been transported across international borders. To date, the Convention has been signed by 115 States, has 15 States parties and will enter into force once it has been ratified by 30 States.

44. The recovery of stolen assets is one of the most effective means of fighting corruption. The asset recovery provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption represent a major breakthrough, establishing the return of assets as a “fundamental principle” and requiring Member States to afford one another the widest measure of assistance. UNODC provides technical support to Member States in this regard through its Global Programme against Corruption.³¹ UNODC has provided technical assistance to Member States in strengthening their legal and institutional anti-corruption framework; collected and disseminated best practices on strengthening judicial integrity;³² developed and disseminated anti-corruption policies and tools; and enhanced inter-agency anti-corruption coordination. For example, in December 2004, UNODC launched a new initiative aimed at assisting the Governments of Kenya and Nigeria in recovering assets stolen by corrupt officials.

45. Furthermore, at the Global Compact Leaders Summit, held in New York on 24 June 2004, the chief executive officers of 1,700 corporations added anti-corruption to a platform already supporting the protection of human rights, the elimination of child labour and the preservation of the environment. As a result, fighting corruption not only has become a major goal for UNODC, but also is one of the commitments of the Global Compact Initiative. UNODC, whose core mission now includes combating corruption, is already working on a productive and successful partnership with businesses and other organizations.

V. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

46. Over the last two years, UNODC has restructured its operations and streamlined its processes, emphasizing a new integrated approach on drugs and crime and an examination of the critical role that prevention plays in combating drugs and crime. In 2004, UNODC presented a consolidated budget for the next biennium. Reforms were initiated in the areas of human resources, finance and information technology. Recently, UNODC launched an integrity initiative to reinforce the ability of its staff to act in full integrity and transparency.

47. At its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly considered UNODC’s contribution to the United Nations strategic framework for the period 2006-2007: the plan provides an integrated vision of the future direction, with clear lines of accountability for core aspects of the Office’s mission. UNODC is operating with a \$100 million budget and 500 dedicated staff members. UNODC is increasing efforts to leverage resources by inviting other institutions and major donor countries to contribute more resources to the issues it deals with. In April 2004, UNODC hosted the spring meeting of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, chaired by the Secretary-General. A major breakthrough led to the Chief Executive Board endorsing a plan of action based on the role of the United Nations system in combating organized crime and corruption. Furthermore, in July 2004, UNODC established an important partnership with the World Bank to work together on issues such as money-laundering, terrorist financing, corruption, HIV/AIDS and alternative livelihoods. The objective is to strengthen these partnerships and to build more with States and organizations willing to fight uncivil behaviours—UNODC seeks to become a more effective catalyst for the necessary

change leading to a world where peace, security and justice are no longer the exception, but the rule.

Notes

- ¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.
- ² Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
- ³ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.
- ⁴ *World Drug Report 2004* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.16), vol. 1, p. 8.
- ⁵ The UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme has continued to conduct annual surveys, in cooperation with the Governments concerned, in all the main countries producing opium poppy and coca and, since last year, in Morocco, the main source of illicit cannabis resin. The second Morocco survey was conducted during the summer of 2004 and the report is expected to be released in the first half of 2005.
- ⁶ The “Paris Pact” initiative has emerged from the Paris Statement (S/2003/641, annex), which was issued at the end of the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003.
- ⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.16.
- ⁸ As part of this undertaking, in collaboration with the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, work is also starting on the estimation of the quantities of drugs consumed. Studies have also been launched on the global cannabis market; the environmental effects of illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit drug production; and the impact of drugs and crime on development in Africa.
- ⁹ UNODC has produced legislative guides for the implementation of the Convention and each of its three Protocols. A series of regional and subregional meetings have provided opportunities for States to review progress in the ratification process and to exchange experience.
- ¹⁰ UNODC started the Container Control Pilot Programme in October 2004, when project operations began in the first pilot port, in Guayaquil, Ecuador. In the general area of organized crime, UNODC is supervising a global technical assistance project on counter-kidnapping, which will produce a manual of best practices to counter kidnapping in 2005. In April 2004, UNODC organized a subregional meeting on counter-narcotics cooperation in Pakistan to explore operational cooperation between States of the region against illicit drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime. In addition, in September 2004 UNODC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) jointly organized a conference for technical experts on border management and security to share the experience of international organizations in promoting more effective border security and to develop a more coordinated approach to delivering international assistance.
- ¹¹ Workshops on legislation and implementing practice related to extradition and mutual legal assistance in drug cases were held in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Participants, including prosecutors from Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, were provided with training manuals and UNODC software to assist in the preparation of requests for mutual legal assistance in Russian. In the Russian Federation, to facilitate the implementation of a new drug control law, legal workshops were organized for 258 key prosecutors to address cases involving drugs, organized crime and money-laundering and train those responsible for the application of the new law, especially along drug trafficking routes. UNODC trained judges, magistrates and prosecutors in various countries in laws concerning drugs, human trafficking and money-laundering and provided on-the-job training in a mock-trial framework in Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

- ¹² In June 2004, UNODC presented the results of major independent evaluations of drug treatment courts in Australia, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Scotland) and the United States of America to an international gathering of drug treatment court practitioners in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States; new drug treatment court programmes began in Canada and New Zealand and are under consideration in Barbados, Germany, Italy, Norway, Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as in the Cayman Islands.
- ¹³ In Afghanistan, legal assistance activities are aimed at supporting Afghan authorities in implementing the new drug control law and strengthening the drug control machinery. UNODC has been training judges, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel and will now focus on expanding provincial training and international legal cooperation with neighbouring countries. UNODC has provided assistance to various task groups in countries of the Caucasus and Eastern Europe to develop workplans for drug law reform and to draft amendments to their drug control laws. Advice has also been provided to numerous countries throughout the world on such issues as precursor control, confiscated assets, witness protection and licit drug control legislation.
- ¹⁴ For example, in 2004, UNODC supported the training of a total of 645 law enforcement officers from the Russian Federation and 104 officers from other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States at the international police training centre in Domodedovo, Russian Federation.
- ¹⁵ Detailed assessment missions aimed at determining the most appropriate technical assistance interventions in the area of law enforcement have been conducted in several countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Iraq and Kenya.
- ¹⁶ As part of its delivery of services to requesting States, the programme has provided some 1,500 reference standards (to laboratories in 15 countries), two comprehensive bibliographies of scientific literature and some 500 manuals (to support laboratories in more than 80 countries).
- ¹⁷ For example, in Viet Nam, UNODC has provided technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the police, the border control forces and members of the judiciary to respond to trafficking in persons and other related crime. Six weeks of training were carried out in April-May 2004, and an assessment of the legal system in relation to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Migrants Protocol was carried out. In the Philippines, the focus is on enhancing the national capacity to assist victims, including national and subregional networking, as well as training. In Africa, technical assistance was given to the implementation of the ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003). UNODC has also drafted training manuals for use in Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Viet Nam, as well as in other member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- ¹⁸ Three major technical assistance tools have been developed: (a) a United Nations legislative guide for use in common-law and civil-law systems; (b) a checklist of offences set forth in the 12 universal instruments against terrorism and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001); and (c) an in-house database on terrorism-related legislation. A concerted effort is being made to achieve increased field-level presence and input by assigning regional and subregional experts.
- ¹⁹ A complementary working relationship is in place between UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate. UNODC delivers requested technical assistance, especially legal assistance, drawing on its specialized substantive expertise. The ad hoc substantive services of a UNODC senior legal expert have been placed at the disposal of the Executive Directorate, and a terrorism prevention expert has been sent to New York to liaise and work closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee.
- ²⁰ The mentor based in the United Republic of Tanzania, with the secretariat of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group, provided training to 14 countries and prepared for Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)-style mutual evaluations. The mentor based in the Pacific, in a joint initiative with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat, provided technical assistance in financial investigations to several countries in the region. The Global Programme against Money-Laundering mentor

assisted Fiji with a five-nation investigation that resulted in the largest ever drug interdiction in the southern hemisphere; a new mentor was assigned to Kazakhstan to act as a legal adviser in Central Asia, in partnership with the World Bank; a second mentor was reassigned from Canada to the Philippines to assist in the development of its financial investigation unit.

- ²¹ Coca surveys in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru; opium poppy surveys in Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar; and a cannabis survey in Morocco.
- ²² See Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/14, entitled "The role of alternative development in drug control and development cooperation".
- ²³ The Global Assessment Programme has continued to develop its Toolkit Module series with the completion of the modules on *Focus Assessment Studies: a Qualitative Approach to Data Collection* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.15) and *Ethical Challenges in Drug Epidemiology: Issues, Principles and Guidelines* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.19). It has also improved the analysis on drug abuse trends through a new analytical tool, called the Weighted Analysis on Drug Abuse Trends, for weighted estimations of regional trends taking into consideration different population sizes.
- ²⁴ The work of the Global Youth Network has resulted in a series of publications including: *Drug Abuse Prevention among Youth from Ethnic and Indigenous Minorities* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.17); *Schools: School-based Education for Drug Abuse Prevention* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.21); *Monitoring and Evaluating Substance Abuse Prevention*. A training manual on health promotion and drug abuse prevention was developed for use by sports coaches and released as a CD ROM at the Olympic Games in Athens. The joint UNODC/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse was completed and the final evaluation has been conducted by WHO. Non-governmental organizations working with youth and involved in the Initiative have been invited to participate in the regional successor groups of the Global Youth Network project.
- ²⁵ UNODC initiated in early 2005 the "Data for Africa" project to support African countries in improving their capacity to collect, analyse and report data on drugs and crime.
- ²⁶ The first South-South cooperation in crime prevention, involving the Caribbean and Southern Africa, started with a Caribbean regional criminological conference of experts. The project, which is aimed at sharing best practices, was fully endorsed by the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs' Cooperation Organization, as well as the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police.
- ²⁷ The Commonwealth Secretariat helped to run a regional SADC workshop on judicial integrity. A court integrity project has commenced in Mozambique.
- ²⁸ In June 2004, UNODC cooperated with ECOWAS in organizing in Abuja a regional workshop on cooperating against trafficking in persons for the benefit of national focal points from Benin, Nigeria and Togo. UNODC is also implementing part of a project executed by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute on countering trafficking in minors and young women from Nigeria into Italy for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- ²⁹ A fund to promote victim support has been created to support non-governmental organization initiatives addressing victims of violent crime, including victims of trafficking in persons.
- ³⁰ Under the auspices of the coordination panel, a publication on protecting the rights of children in conflict with the law was prepared with the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- ³¹ UNODC concluded projects in Hungary and Nigeria, continued the implementation of projects in Colombia, Lebanon and South Africa, launched projects in Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Mozambique and developed new projects for Afghanistan, Iraq and Kenya, as well as follow-up projects for Nigeria and South Africa.

³² UNODC collects and disseminates best practices to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Publications providing technical guidance and policy advice include: (a) *UN Guide for Anti-Corruption Policies*; (b) *United Nations Handbook on Practical Anti-Corruption Measures for Prosecutors and Investigators*; (c) *United Nations Anti-Corruption Toolkits* and (d) *The Compendium of International Legal Instruments on Corruption*.
